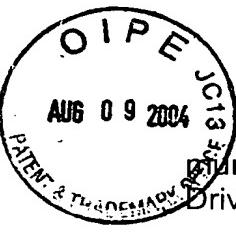


DECLARATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

I, MICHAEL L. HODAK, declare:


I am a citizen of the United States of America and a resident of the municipality of Venetia, Pennsylvania, whose residence address is 326 Double Tree Drive, Venetia, Pennsylvania 15367.

I believe myself to be the original, first and sole inventor of the improvement entitled "Flow Diverting Weir For a Swimming Pool Skimmer Having Increased Field of Influence" for which a patent application was filed in the United States Patent and Trademark Office on January 30, 2004 and bears Application No. 10/768,992.

I have reviewed and understand the contents of the specification, including the claims.

That this application claims the benefit of earlier filed United States Provisional Patent Application No. 60/444,007, filed January 31, 2003.

That, as to the subject matter of this application which is common to said provisional patent application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof; or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention or more than one year prior to said provisional patent application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to said provisional patent application.

That said common subject matter has not been patented or been made the subject of an inventor's certificate before the date of said provisional patent application in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to said provisional patent application.

That no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention set forth in said provisional patent application was filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

As to the subject matter of this application which is not common to said provisional patent application, I do not know and do not believe that the same was ever known or used in the United States before my invention thereof; or patented or described in any printed publication in any country before my invention or more than one year prior to the date of this application; or in public use or on sale in the United States more than one year prior to the date of this application.

That said subject matter of this application which is not common to said provisional patent application has not been patented or made the subject of an inventor's certificate in any country foreign to the United States on an application filed by us or our legal representatives or assigns more than twelve months prior to the date of this application.

That no application for patent or inventor's certificate on said invention set forth in this application was filed by me or my legal representatives or assigns in any country foreign to the United States.

I acknowledge my duty to disclose information of which I am aware which is material to the patentability of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, §1.56(a), including matters as occurred between the filing date of my said provisional patent application and the filing date of this application.

I declare further that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issuing thereon.

I hereby appoint the attorneys associated with Customer Number 28289, whose post-office address is Webb Ziesenhein Logsdon Orkin & Hanson, P.C., 700 Koppers Building, 436 Seventh Avenue, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15219-1818, Telephone No. 412-471-8815, including the following ten attorneys:

Kent E. Baldauf, Registration No. 25,826;
David C. Hanson, Registration No. 23,024;
Richard L. Byrne, Registration No. 28,498;
Paul M. Reznick, Registration No. 33,059;
Julie W. Meder, Registration No. 36,216;
James G. Porcelli, Registration No. 33,757;
Kent E. Baldauf, Jr., Registration No. 36,082;
Christian E. Schuster, Registration No. 43,908;
Nathan J. Prepelka, Registration No. 43,016; and
Kirk M. Miles, Registration No. 37,891,

as my attorneys to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith, to amend the specification, to appeal in case of rejection, as they may deem advisable, to receive the patent when granted and generally to do all matters and things needful in the premises, as fully and to all intents and purposes as I could do:

All correspondence and telephone calls should be addressed to
Kent E. Baldauf.

I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration and power of attorney this 2 day of AUGUST, 2004.

Inventor:


Michael L. Hodak